

USAF

ALUMNI REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, McGUIRE AFB RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

SPRING 2004

McGuire AFB	DSC Philadelphia	Stewart ANG Base	Willow Grove AFRES	Wyoming, PA
Mon thru Fri 0900-1500 609 754-2459	Tue,Wed,Thu 0900-1500 215 737-7300	Mon thru Fri 0900-1200 1300-1600 845 563-2226	Mon thru Fri 0900-1500 215 443-1072	Mon 0900-1500 570-288-5427

1. **RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY, 24 APRIL 2004, McGUIRE AFB OFFICERS CLUB.** Inside this newsletter you will find your invitation letter from Col Jimmie C. Jackson, Jr., Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing. The Retiree Appreciation Day program is developed and organized to provide you and your spouse with the services and support that you need the most. A special slate of speakers is scheduled to brief you on medical facilities and programs, retired pay, federal legislative initiatives and more. On page 3 you will find an outline of special programs that will be available in the afternoon. Check Col Jackson's letter for important details. Please call us at 609 754-2459 if you plan to have lunch at the dining hall. **Mark your calendar for 24 April, 10:00 a.m., McGuire Officers Club. Coffee and donuts will be available at 9:00 a.m. See you there!**

2. **CONCURRENT RECEIPT PAYMENTS.** Yes, the concurrent receipt payments have finally begun! The first 143,000 military retirees with VA disabilities of 50% and over received their first payments under this law on Feb. 1st. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and the Cleveland Retiree Pay Center is working closely with Veterans Administration (VA) to make sure that all eligible retirees receive the proper payment as soon as possible. It is important to remember that all payment is retroactive to 1 Jan 2004. The pay center is working on some of the more complex retired pay issues such as those retirees who are sharing their retired pay with former spouses under the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act and some of the more complicated medical retirement cases. Exact income tax withholding tables have not yet been recomputed and the pay center is currently using a straight 10% until this amount is finalized. It is important to remember that concurrent receipt is an ongoing ten-year program. By the year 2014 all eligible military retirees will be receiving their full retired pay and their full VA Disability Compensation. For clarification we will repeat the repayment schedule as directed by the law. For 2004, qualifying retirees should see their retired pay increase by a flat dollar amount in accordance with the following disability schedule: [100%--\$750]; [90%--\$500]; [80%--\$350]; [70%--\$250]; [60%--\$125]; [50%--\$100]. Each year an additional 10% of the remaining offset will be added to your retired pay. By the year 2014, disabled retirees with 50% and over disability ratings will be entitled to **full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation.** More details as appropriate will be available during the McGuire Retiree Appreciation Day on 24 April.

3. **INTERNAL MEDICINE CLINIC CLOSURE AT McGUIRE.** The 305th Medical Group at McGuire has experienced a restructuring of physicians as directed by the Air Force Medical Service. The Air Force has determined that internal medicine physicians will be assigned only to Medical Treatment Facilities with inpatient capability. Since McGuire does not meet this criterion, the McGuire Health Care Clinic will lose its internist authorizations and the Internal Medicine Clinic will close. Medical records of internal medicine patients have been reviewed and some of the affected patients were transferred to the Primary Care Clinic. However, many required the specialty care of an internist. The TRICARE Service Center can assist patients with required paperwork and provide resources needed to transition to a civilian physician. Patients will still be able to use the laboratory, pharmacy and radiology services. Patients who have not visited the TRICARE Service Center are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Please call 1-888-223-2448 (selection option 4) or visit the TRICARE Service Center at the Health Care Clinic.

4. **"PHARMASSIST" UPGRADES AT 305TH MED GP PHARMACY.** Progress by the 305th Medical Group (MDG) pharmacy staff is currently continuing under an Air Force-wide upgrade via renovation and improvement to equipment used to fill and verify prescriptions. This new system call "PharmASSIST" is requiring the pharmacy to process prescriptions in a completely different manner than patients and staff are normally accustomed to. PharmASSIST improves patient safety in the prescription filling process and will add a very significant layer of protection. For this new process to work effectively, patients visiting the 305th MDG will have to check in at the pharmacy kiosk located in the center of the atrium in front of the staircase AFTER their appointment in order to begin the filling process. Some longer wait times are anticipated in the short term, until the pharmacy and clinic staff and patients become accustomed to the new process. If patients phone their on-base provider to have them put a prescription into the computer for them, they will need to either check in at the kiosk or phone the pharmacy ahead before the prescription will be filled. These changes **WILL NOT** affect patients who bring in handwritten prescriptions from off-base providers or those who utilize the pharmacy phone-in refill line. For additional information, call 609-754-9466.

SPECIAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1230-1530 hours

Again this year, **PUTTING PREVENTION into PRACTICE (PIPP)** comes to Retiree Appreciation Day. The 305th Medical Group will be offering comprehensive **health risk screening** and health information. Be sure to check it out.

ID CARD RENEWAL – For ID card renewal, please bring the following documents:

1. RETIREMENT ORDERS OR DD FORM 214
2. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (FOR SPOUSE)
3. BIRTH CERTIFICATE (FOR CHILDREN)
4. ADOPTION CERTIFICATE (IF APPROPRIATE)

Because of an Air Force change in the type of ID card being issued and the associated computer system, the Personnel Customer Service staff is unable to move the necessary equipment to the Officers Club. To accommodate this requirement, ID card applicants are asked to go to the Personnel Building for ID card processing. Although slightly inconvenient, processing will be much faster and more efficient. We will have clearly printed instructions on how to get to the Military Personnel Building. ID cards will be issued from 1230 to 1530 hours. The Customer Service staff greatly appreciates your cooperation. NOTE: Be sure to bring the applicable documents listed above. We will also provide transportation from the Officers Club to the Personnel building and return.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION – You will need driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance and ID card.

TABLES FOR INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE:

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) | 9. RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE |
| 2. SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE | 10. RETIREE DECALS |
| 3. SPACE 'A' TRAVEL | 11. US DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS |
| 4. LEGAL OFFICE | 12. NJ BUREAU OF VETERANS AFFAIRS |
| 5. RETIRED PAY | 13. PENN VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM |
| 6. TRICARE | 14. MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION |
| 7. AAFES | 15. RETIREE HATS, JACKETS & T-SHIRTS |
| 8. COMMISSARY | 16. VEHICLE REGISTRATION |

5. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** The need for volunteers remains at a high level. We have a special need to fill vacancies at our McGuire Office, Wing Staff agencies and the Medical Clinic. Your volunteer assistance will help provide the best possible service to the military retired community. In addition to our normal duties we are also asking for your help in the McGuire Youth Mentoring Program. Your participation will provide valuable support for active duty families. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** As little as one half day per week would be a tremendous help. PLEASE call us at 609 754-2459 or email us at mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil.

6. **KEEP YOUR DEERS DATA CURRENT.** The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) officials are again strongly emphasizing the importance of updating your DEERS data when changes occur. You can notify DEERS of your address changes in the following ways: a. visit a local personnel office that has a uniformed service ID card facility (to locate the nearest ID card facility visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/); b. Fax address changes to 1-831-655-8317; c. call TOLL FREE 1-800-538-9552 from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern time Mon-Fri except Federal holidays; d. mail changed information to DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771. When updating information other than addresses you may need important documentation such as marriage, birth or death certificates; DD 214, etc. Contact the nearest military ID card facility to find out what documents are needed. The office and number to call at McGuire is Customer Service at 609 754-3546. If you need more information, call us at the Retiree Activities Office, 609-754-2459.

7. **AIR CONTROL SQUADRON REUNION.** 30 July – 1 August, Volk Field, Wisconsin. All retired and current members of tactical air control/air control groups and squadrons are invited to the first Air Control Sq reunion. You will get an update on the future of the Air National Guard and the ANG deployment to Afghanistan. Billeting will be free at the new Volk Conference Center. Volk Field is located near many excellent recreation facilities. E-mail mdpirwitz@jvlnet.com or call 608-847-5982 for more info.

8. IMPORTANT MCGUIRE INFORMATION:

>**Retiree Hats, Jackets and T-Shirts.** Please note the additional costs for shipping that Ron has had to apply because of rising cost of goods and mailing. All products carry the embroidered retiree logo. Note the new design and material of the jacket and that a very nice pima cotton golf shirt is now available for \$25.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. T-shirts are dark blue. Sizes are L, XL and XXL. Prices are \$13.50 and \$14.50 for the XXL; material is 50% cotton and 50% nylon. Add \$3.00 for shipping. Hats are dark blue adjustable. Summer and winter weights are available. Summer hats are \$14.00, winter hats are \$15.00. Add \$2.00 for shipping if ordering two or more. The design and material of the jacket have changed. The material is now a microfiber with a suede-like finish. Color is still dark blue. The entire jacket, including collar, cuffs and waistband, is the same microfiber material with a zipper closing. Jackets are \$43.50; XXL is \$44.50; add \$3.95 for shipping. Allow six weeks for delivery. Call 609 466-1008 to make payments.

>**Air Force Retired Decal.** Increasing costs over the past few years have necessitated a minimal increase in price to **\$2** each. This is a quality product and we will continue to keep the price as low as possible. We have decals available in any number you may need. The size is 3"x5". And it's red, white and blue. The design is similar to the insignia seen on Army Air Force aircraft at the beginning of WWII, with "Air Force Retired" printed across the top. Cost of the decal is **\$2 each**. Send your order to the **Retiree Activities Office, 305MSG/CVR 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5004.**

>USAF Retired Automobile License Plate- New Jersey. This special license plate is now available in your own personalized choice. Members of the NJ retired community may still apply for our basic organizational design with the USAF coat of arms and words USAF RETIRED. In addition, our organizational plate can be issued in combination with a PERSONALIZED set from three to five letters and/or numbers, or as a COURTESY plate with a State Senator-approved letter/number sequence. The fees for these plates vary depending on your selected combination! To get instructions and application forms, send a **SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE ENVELOPE** to **Retiree Activities Office, 305MSG/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5004**. And PLEASE tell us which plate or combination you will be requesting! The instructions will include the plate cost and any limitations.

9. **DISCLAIMER:** Opinions expressed by the writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to be the official position or policy of DoD, USAF, or McGuire Air Force Base. Editorial efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the information presented; however, no absolute guarantee can be given or assumed. The Editor.

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